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NSC BRIEFING

2 March 1955

CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. With ChiCom occupation Nanchishan (26 Feb), Peiping announced "more favorable conditions for liberating Formosa, Fukien islands"--Matsus and Quemoy.

II. Matsus might be next.

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US attachés Taipei say new jet base (Luchiao), just 175 mi north Matsus, done soon.

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III. Hard to judge which of nine islands in Matsu area could be hit first.

DIA review(s) completed.

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A. ChiComs might try to take
or more of lightly defended
islands before attacking
major ones.

B. ChiNats fear early invasion
Wuchius, midway between Matsu
and Quemoy. Wuchiu shelled
ChiCom ships 25 Feb.

IV. Nats beefing up Matsu defenses.

A. Full strength 84th Div (11,000
troops) arriving this week.
Regulars now there return.

B. Guerrilla strength to be

V. Quemoy's quiet, only occasional
shelling.

A. ChiComs intensifying supply
to Quemoy. Boats, kites,
lery sending safe con-
other literature.

B. Some 13,000 ChiNat troops
this month, increasing
years from 54,000.

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